

REMARKS

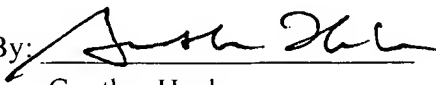
Claims 1-35 are pending, and new claims 36-39 are added by this preliminary amendment.

Applicants have added new claims 36-39, support for which can be found in Fig. 1 (illustrating the sleeve butting up to the distal end of the distal shaft of the balloon, and the butt-joint between the inner tubular member and the distal tip member); and original claim 8 (calling for a butt-joint between the proximal end of the distal tip member and the portion of the shaft proximal thereto); and on page 4, lines 12-14 (calling for fusion bonding the sleeve to the underlying members); and page 9, lines 18-19 (calling for forming the sleeve and distal tip member of compatible materials).

Applicants wish to bring to the attention of the Patent Office the references listed on the attached PTO/SB/08A, and request that they be considered by the Examiner. This Information Disclosure Statement is being submitted pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3), and therefore no fee is due.

Applicants submit that the pending claims define patentable subject matter, and respectfully request reconsideration and an early allowance thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

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GOH:psm

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